

spending increase from \$4,500 this year to \$6,800 7 years from now is a spending cut. Again, more spin control.

Then we get somebody coming in from my home State, Florida, saying I want to protect the senior citizens in Florida. Yet the gentleman knows it goes bankrupt 7 years from now, and every senior citizen from Florida to California is without Medicare if we follow the Democrats' path.

As a Democrat says, beam me up, Scotty, I cannot take any more. I have to hold onto this podium tight because the spin control is going crazy. Let us talk reality for a second and talk real numbers. We are willing to save Medicare, and I hope we get some help from the Democrats.

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#### REPUBLICANS NOW ENGAGED IN DAMAGE CONTROL REGARDING CUTS TO MEDICARE

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is really damage control that they are engaged in. Those who are trying to cut Medicare massively are now trying to cover their tracks with deception. The majority party is now working with a group calling itself the Senior Coalition and it is passing around what they call "the Pledge to save Medicare."

Testimony from this group a few weeks ago before the Committee on Ways and Means came out in support of \$270 billion in the Republican cuts, though they did not know what was in the cuts. This pledge says: "Let's increase Medicare spending for beneficiaries, even though the \$270 billion cut would increase copayments and deductible for seniors." This so-called pledge talks about maintaining the current Medicare fee-for-service system, even though the \$270 billion in cuts would squeeze the option of fee-for-service for seniors. The majority party is on the run. There is no place to hide; surely not behind a cloud of deception.

#### NASA'S REMOTE SENSING TECHNOLOGY

(Mr. SALMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, 23,000 acres in the Scottsdale, AZ area were ravaged by terrible brush fires. The damage could have been much worse if not for a partnership between NASA and the city of Scottsdale.

Testing the applications of a new technology, called remote sensing, NASA jets flying over the blaze beamed images of the fire's hot spots via satellite to the ground. Firefighters were then able to use their limited resources

more effectively and contain the blaze days sooner than they had thought possible, thus saving property, money, and lives.

Mr. Speaker, we will vote today to continue the excellent scientific research that is being conducted at NASA, and to streamline the agency by moving mature technologies toward privatization. The way Scottsdale and NASA worked together is a wonderful example of space technology being used to improve the lives of those of us here on Earth.

#### A SORRY BIRTHDAY GREETING FOR MEDICARE ON ITS 30TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. It is the 30th birthday of Medicare, Mr. Speaker. What we have heard again this morning are birthday greetings for Medicare recipients from our Republican colleagues. It all boils down to a single sentence: They are saying to the older Americans of this country, "If you will pay more for your health care, we will give you less health care." That is a pretty sorry birthday greeting, so they had to hire a public relations firm, and I have their report here, to tell them, "Don't talk about improving Medicare. We can't afford to raise expectations, but keep in mind that seniors are very PAC-oriented and very susceptible to being led." That is what the Republican public relations firm told them to tell older Americans.

Then they came up with a Medicare pledge from a so-called Seniors Coalition. What that pledge says is, when you read between the lines, "Raise the deductible, raise the premiums, pay more, and get less, Mr. and Mrs. Older American." That is a sorry birthday greeting for Medicare. When Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare into law, he signed a candle of hope, and we cannot have that candle extinguished by this Republican initiative.

#### THE FIRES OF MEDICARE ARE BURNING

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but notice that my friend, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT], continually wants to go with budget overruns and time overruns. The fact is this: The best way to preserve Medicare is to stand now to save it, not play the old whining game of the liberals saying, "We need to spend more and more," but find a way to say "Yes, spend more money, but spend it more effectively."

My colleague, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON], made mention of the fire in my district and the fact

that firefighters had to stand and deliver.

We have a crisis that is just as imminent as that fire. The fires of Medicare are burning. If we really want to save it, then my friends on this side, the liberals, come with us, let us work to solve the problem, and quit playing the sordid politics of the past.

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY DOTH PROTEST TOO MUCH CONCERNING MEDICARE

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my Republican colleagues, "Thou doth protest too much." Let me talk about specifics. I hope that the people of this country are watching and getting engaged in this debate, because the reality of the 30-year history of the Medicare system is it never had more than a 10-year actual life. In fact, at one point in time, it had a 2-year actuarial life.

The majority party has made adjustments, or the former majority party has made adjustments. In my first year in Congress in 1993, we had a \$50 billion adjustment to the Medicare system. What my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are proposing is a \$270 billion cut in Medicare, astronomical by any comparison to what had ever been done before. It was not dictated by actuarial analysis. It was dictated by their budget, and they drew that. There is no doubt they can save \$270 billion in Medicare, but the Medicare that will exist in America under the Republican plan will adversely affect 37 million people in this country. It will not be the Medicare that we know today.

#### WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. As we have heard, Mr. Speaker, the Medicare anniversary is July 30. Thirty years it has been in existence. This vital program, while it is only 30 years old, faces a very strong financial crisis. I think everybody on both sides of the aisle knows that. The Medicare board of trustees have concluded that Medicare part A, the hospital insurance trust fund, will be bankrupt in 7 years. We cannot say it any more simply. We will be unable to pay those bills for seniors.

The Republican majority will not let this happen and I am sure many of the Democrats do not want that to happen. We understand the importance of Medicare to seniors and stand ready to protect, preserve, and to strengthen this